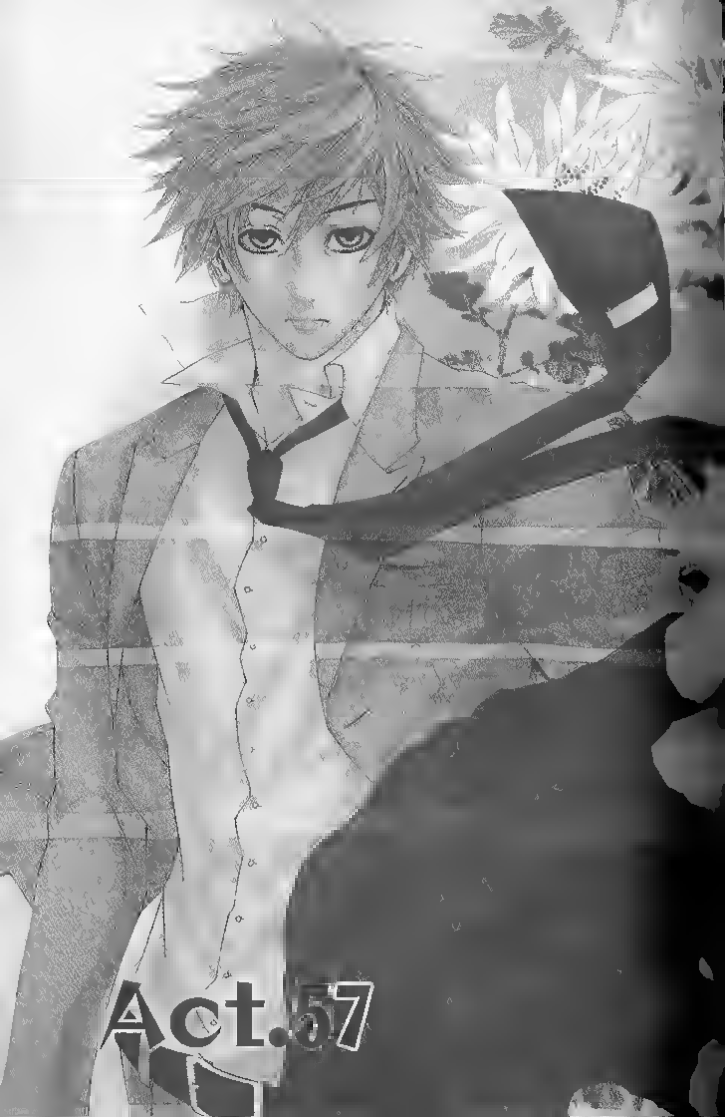

Act.57

SAIGA?
FWP
GREAT.
Hmph
shuff
HE'S ALWAYS JUST DOING WHATEVER HE WANTS..
Saiga
beep

BRRING
IT CAN'T BE!
WHY IS IT IN THERE?
BUP
WSSSSH
...
BRRING
BRRING
BUP
gulp

BRRING
BRRING
I CAN HEAR SAIGA'S PHONE!
wha
BRRINGG
WHERE IS IT?
BRRING

WHAM
SAIGA!
!
GRAB
SAIGA!
WHAT...
!
WHAT HAPPENED HERE!
EX-CUSE ME...
I CAN DEFI-NITELY HEAR IT SOME-WHERE IN THIS HOUSE.
THUD
KREEE
RRRING
RRRING
...
!

totter
grab
BABY_
AK!_
SAIGA!
I_
I HEARD A CRY FROM INSIDE THE HOUSE_
WHAT...
WHAT
HAPPENED
?!
grab
wobble
THAT CAN'T BE...
WHY ...?
KO... KOSAKA?

CALL FORENSICS.
WE'RE...
...TOO LATE.
WHY? WHY THIS...?
KA-CHUNK
THE DOOR WAS OPEN...
AND WHEN I WENT INSIDE, SOMEONE HIT ME...
WAIT... NO...
SAIGA...
SLUMP
KOSAKA...
NO...
CALL AN AMBULANCE!
WHA
!
SHF
SAIGA!
WAIT! LET'S CALL FOR BACKUP!
IF THE PERP IS IN THERE, THEN...
DASH

THERE'S A SURVIVOR
shf
IT'S OKAY NOW.
WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU.
ARE YOU HURT ANYWHERE?
?
Pah
...

SAIGA!
WHAM
!

AKI!
!
U-URGH!
WHA
!
R-RIGHT!
CALL AN AMBU-LANCE... NOW!
wha
DON'T TOUCH IT! DON'T TOUCH IT!
JUST CALM DOWN..
WE'RE HERE, KID IT'S OKAY NOW

wha
DON'T TOUCH IT!
!
tik

...
WE'LL LEAVE HIM IN THE BACK SEAT FOR THE TIME BEING..
WHAT ABOUT THE KID?
...THAT KOSAKA HAD...
...A WIFE AND ONE SON...
shf
COULD THIS BE KOSAKA'S HOUSE?
I REMEMBER HEARING..
UH... OKAY
IT'S DEEPER THAN I THOUGHT.
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY GO TO THE HOSPITAL WITH THE KID...
—!

DON'T YOU...
THE AMBULANCE... AND FORENSICS...
...THEY SAY THEY'LL BE HERE WITHIN TEN MINUTES.
...TOUCH IT!!

SAIGA..
I'M SO...
...SICK OF THIS JOB!
WHA
UH-UH
grab
THE PERP COULD STILL BE IN THE AREA.
I'LL WATCH OVER THE SCENE, SO YOU TAKE CARE OF THE KID.
SAIGA
OVER THERE
WHAT?
AH, RIGHT
...!

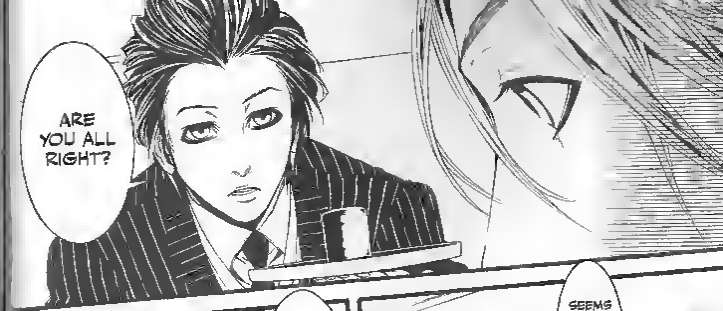
...OKAY.
SO DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING.
WE NEED TO PRESERVE THIS SCENE UNTIL FORENSICS GETS HERE.
ANYWAY...
WHA
WHAT THE HELL...
...ARE YOU SAYING?!
...
I'M SO...
SO...
YOU MUST BE PRETTY EXCITED. . . YOUR FIRST MURDER SCENE AND ALL
!

HEY, AKI!
AKI.
...THE BEGINNING OF DESPAIR.
YOU SHOULD GO
FORENSICS WILL TAKE CARE OF THE REST
AND...
YES... I FELT INCREDIBLY ILL AT EASE.
...IT WAS INTENTIONALLY PUT THERE
...IN A PLACE THAT WOULD BE EASY TO SPOT

ISN'T THAT..
..SORT OF WEIRD?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN IT'S UNNATURAL.
THERE'S NO BLOOD...
...SPATTERED ON THE LIGHTER
WHICH MEANS IT MUST'VE BEEN DROPPED AFTER THE MURDER.
BUT... IT'S ALMOST AS IF...

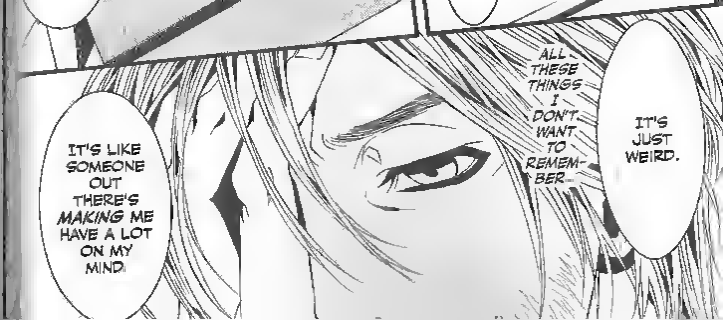
THEY DIDN'T FIND ANY FINGER-PRINTS ON IT.
BUT THIS MARK...
SHF
YEAH...
OH, GOOD.
AKI
WE'VE GOT THE FORENSICS RESULTS FROM THAT LIGHTER YOU FOUND AT THE APARTMENT.
SHUFF
APPARENTLY IT'S UNMISTAKABLY THE MARK OF A RYUGEN SLAVE

NO. I DON'T THINK SO
SO. IS IT REALLY SOME KIND OF... PRANK?
ALSO, THE LIGHTER WAS MANU-FACTURED RECENTLY
AND IT DOESN'T SHOW ANY SIGNS OF USE IT'S BRAND NEW.
I KNOW.


ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

ESPECIALLY SINCE THOSE POME-GRANATES SHOWED UP.
YEAH, I GUESS...

SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A LOT ON YOUR MIND.
YOU THINK?
YEAH


IT'S LIKE SOMEONE OUT THERE'S MAKING ME HAVE A LOT ON MY MIND.
ALL THESE THINGS I DON'T WANT TO REMEM-BER...
IT'S JUST WEIRD.

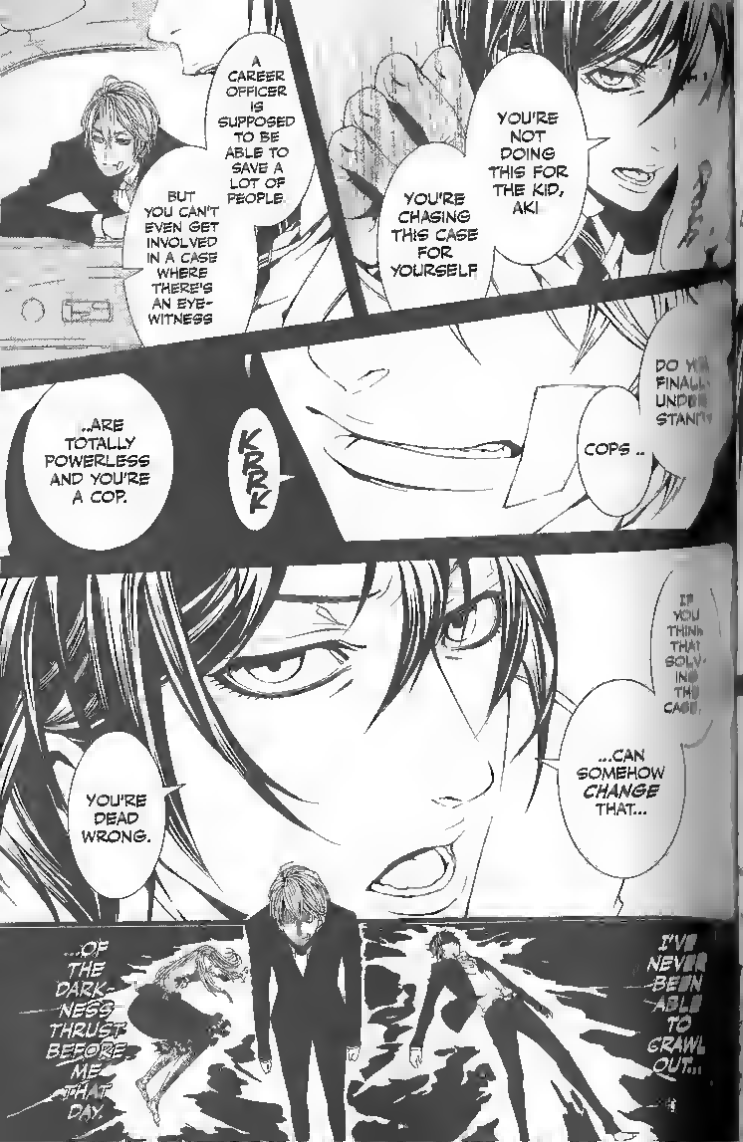
!
AND THIS IS WHAT THEY FOUND...
ZZZZZ
...
YEAH... THIS IS A MESSAGE MEANT ONLY FOR ME
HUH?
THE LIGHTER..
THE POME-GRANATES
ONE MORE THING ABOUT THIS LIGHTER
JUST TO BE SURE, THEY DISMANTLED IT AND CHECKED INSIDE.
WHO?
BUT...
SOMEONE IS TELLING ME NOT TO FORGET WHAT HAPPENED 16 YEARS AGO

I SEE... SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...
IT'S NOT... IT'S NOT OVER YET...
!
KA CLINK
OKAY, THEN.
I'M GONNA GO SEE THE KID.

Act.58

klunk klunk
HE WAS A SKILLED AGENT, AND SAIGA KNEW HIM.
THE MAN NAMED REN KOSAKA.
SHUT
...GREW STEADILY WORSE.
THE SHOCK OF HAVING THE VICTIM AT MY FIRST MURDER SCENE BE SOMEONE I KNEW...
DEATH HAD BEEN SO CLOSE.
SHINER
...WAS THAT THOSE TWO ENCOUNTERS WITH THIS MAN...
AND WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW YET...
I'D ONLY MET HIM TWICE IN MY LIFE.
IT'S NOT AS THOUGH WE WERE PARTICULARLY CLOSE.
AND THE SECOND, I'D JUST HAPPENED TO PASS HIM...
THE FIRST TIME, HE'D BEEN JOKING AROUND AND POINTED A GUN AT US.
THAT'S ALL HE WAS TO ME.
A NARC.
REN KOSAKA, THE ACTING CHIEF OF INVESTIGATION SECTION 1 OF THE KANTO DISTRICT NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICE (FORMER NAME).

...WOULD THROW MY OWN LIFE INTO CONFUSION.
YOU GOTTA LET IT GO, BABY AKI.
IT'S NOT EVEN OUR CASE.
AND WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO DO INVESTIGATIONS OR INTERVIEWS INDEPENDENTLY.
I JUST...
KRRK
IT'S BEEN A WEEK... SINCE THAT DAY..
AND THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY SUSPECTS, LET ALONE A PERP
...NOT ENOUGH CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE
NOT TO INDICATE A SUSPECT, ANYWAY.
wha
THERE'S EVIDENCE RIGHT HERE!
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA ASK A KID WHOSE PARENTS WERE KILLED RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIS EYES?!
EVERY-THING!
THE KID!
THE KID SAW EVERY-THING!
ENOUGH!
HE'S GOTTA WANT US TO CATCH THE PERP.
AND ALSO..
I...
...
DOESN'T IT BOTHER YOU?
THAT KOSAKA-THAT SOMEONE SO CLOSE TO YOU WAS MURDERED?


A CAREER OFFICER IS SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO SAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE.
BUT YOU CAN'T EVEN GET INVOLVED IN A CASE WHERE THERE'S AN EYE-WITNESS
YOU'RE NOT DOING THIS FOR THE KID, AKI
YOU'RE CHASING THIS CASE FOR YOURSELF
DO YOU FINALLY UNDERSTAND?
COPS ..
KRRK
..ARE TOTALLY POWERLESS AND YOU'RE A COP.
IF YOU THINK THAT SOLVING THE CASE,
...CAN SOMEHOW CHANGE THAT...
YOU'RE DEAD WRONG.
...OF THE DARKNESS THRUST BEFORE ME THAT DAY.
I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO CRAWL OUT...

WHY DID HE LOOK...
HUH..?
I'LL NEVER FORGET HIS FACE...
WHY...
...SO LONELY?
KOSAKA...
SHUFF
WE WEREN'T ESPECIALLY CLOSE...
.. WAS JUST A PROFESSIONAL RIVAL.
YOU'RE TAKING TOO MUCH HEADACHE MEDICINE.
IT'S NOT OUR TIME TO PERFORM YET, ANYWAY
TIK

SHF
...
SHF
I WANTED TO HELP LOTS OF PEOPLE, BUT I COULDN'T EVEN BRING SOLACE TO ONE BOY.
AKI!
AKI.
THAT'S NOT WHY I BECAME A DETECTIVE!
I WANT TO HELP AS MANY PEOPLE AS I CAN, OKAY?!
AM I SUPPOSED TO PRETEND NOT TO SEE PEOPLE SUFFERING BECAUSE OF STUPID REASONS LIKE THAT?
"FINISH YOUR FIELD WORK."
"NOT YOUR JURISDICTION."
I WANNA HELP...
MAYBE NOT... BUT STILL...
PEOPLE CAN'T BE HELPED SO EASILY.
BUT STILL, I CAN'T...
I CAN'T JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH.

WHO'S THAT?
TIP

FWSSSH
THANK YOU!
BOW

BUT ABOUT WHAT?
WAS HE TALKING TO THE KID?
shf
HI THERE.
...
DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
...
LET'S SEE, YOUR NAME'S...
KO-SAKA...

WHZZH
AH...!
...
glance
WHO WAS THAT, JUST NOW?

Caller Unknown
?
GET YOUR ASS IN THE CAR GOOD FOR-NOTHIN!
HANG ON A SEC!
KAI KOSAKA, RIGHT?
HELLO?
ETO, THAT YOU?
WHO IS THIS?
YES, BUT...
OH, IT'S ME.
SHUFF
hmph
SHUFF SHUFF

I WANT TO CATCH THEM.
IF YOU KNOW SOME-THING..
NO MATTER HOW SMALL IT IS..
COULD YOU TELL ME ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED?
-UCH ME
-HMM?
AKIMUNE NARITA.
I'M A DETEC-TIVE.
...
I WON'T LET THE BAD PEOPLE THAT HURT YOUR MOM AND DAD GET AWAY.

KAI?!
hic
sob
JUST...
sob
shf
WHAT HAP-PENED?
IT'S ALL RIGHT, KAI
Wah.
HELP ME. Sob
snug
WHO ARE YOU?
I-
WHAT DID YOU DO TO THIS BOY?
Sob
THEY'LL GONNA KILL MOMMY AND DADDY!
Sob
!

DON'T TOUCH ME...
hic
!
hic
I'M... I'M SORRY.
I...
hic
hic
hic
hic
KAI...
hic
DAMMIT... THAT'S NOT TRUE!
CAN SOMEHOW CHANGE THAT-
IF YOU THINK THAT SOLV-ING THE CASE

I'M...
FROM THE POLICE...
WE'VE SAID NO OVER AND OVER!
SOB ...DON'T KILL THEM... SOB
JUST DON'T...
DON'T COME NEAR HIM EVER AGAIN!
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU SAID...
I WAS JUST...
hic
hic
...TRYING TO SAVE MYSELF.

Act.59

I CRACKED DOWN ON A SEED DEALER NAMED IKECHI...
BUT THERE WAS NO CONNECTION TO HIS SOURCE.
SAME HERE.
Sniff
YEAH... Here it is
IT'S BEEN OVER A MONTH SINCE WE STARTED OBSERVING SEED DEALERS...
SO DOES THIS MEAN THEY'VE STILL GOT INVENTORY TO SPARE?
YOU PROPOSING WE GET THE BUYERS TO NAME NAMES DIRECTLY? What a pain.
HUH...
THAT'S RATHER SCARY...

HAL...
I CAN'T...
I JUST CAN'T...
WE'RE NOT FINISHED YET
BUT WE'VE BEEN ON THIS STAKEOUT FOR THREE DAYS WITH NO SLEEP!
I'M SLEEPY... Waaaah
CAN IT!

IKECHI?
GOT A MINUTE?
SPARE
CLICK
DON'T BE SCARED. I'M A NARC.
I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU OUTSIDE ABOUT THE SEEDS YOU'RE SELLING.
!!

...WE COULD BE HASTENING THEIR DEATH.
THAT BY COMING CLOSE TO THE DEALERS...
AND THE DEALERS WE'RE OBSERVING ARE KILLED...
THE DEALERS THAT THE GANGBUSTERS WERE INVESTIGATING ARE DROPPING LIKE FLIES.
WE CAN'T GET TO THEM.
IF THE CAUSE OF DEATH ISN'T SICKNESS OR ACCIDENT...
GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO USE OUR LAST RESORT.
CLICK
OUR LAST RESORT?
POP
HE SAID, "I KNOW IT'S ASKING A LOT, BUT COULD YOU WATCH A LITTLE LONGER?"
Heh heh heh
OH WELL...
SIGHH
I DON'T THINK HE'S GONNA BUDGE ON THAT.

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
SOR-RY...
YOU SAVED MY ASS
HUH?
I THOUGHT I RECOG-NIZED THAT GIRL, IS ALL..
JUST GOT LUCK
SHE'S A NARC
AM I WRONG ?
I TOTALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE IN THE SAME BUSINESS AS ME.
YOU'RE
OH ..
A WHILE BACK MY BUDDY GOT NAILED BY THEM .

HEY.
PAT
THE GUY OVER THERE TOLD ME YOU WERE SELLING.
JUST KIDDING.
Guh!
WHOOK
AH! KOFF

...
ZZZ
ZZZ
KA CHAK
ZZZ
SHAKE SHAKE
ZZZ
GRIN
I SELL SEEDS.
ME?
I'M LIKE YOU.
AND I LOST ALL THE CONTACT INFO FOR THE BOSS.
I SEE.
AH...
WHICH IS WHY I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
ME? WHY?
AND?
WSH
LIKE A MORON, I DROPPED MY CELL PHONE IN THE TOILET.
CAN YOU HOOK ME UP?

SHUFF
SHUFF
VRRRR
GET IN THE DAMN CAR, YOU GOOD-FOR-NOTHIN'-!
Unknown Caller
WAIT A SEC!
HELLO?
THAT YOU, ETO?
UM, YES, BUT WHO IS THIS?
OH, THIS IS...

WHF
SMAK
GRIN GRIN
?!
BREAK-FAST!
I WENT AHEAD AND BOUGHT SOME, SO WE'LL EAT AND HEAD BACK TO HQ
SHUFF
SHUFF
DOO OM
YOU SON OF A.
BUT THEY ALL SAID THEY WANTED TO WATCH YOU!
GET AWAY!
GRIN GRIN
Yay! The hottie's awake! ♥

Act.60

AND I JUST REPEAT IT OVER AND OVER PRETTY SOON, I REALLY CAN'T REMEMBER
IF YOU THINK I'M LYING, TRY ME SOMETIME
YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF AT A GRUESOME SCENE AFTER GRUESOME SCENE IN THIS LINE OF WORK. CAN'T HELP IT
I KNOW THEY SAY PEOPLE CAN GET USED TO ANYTHING...
...
BUT IF I JUST TOOK IT ALL, MY MIND AND BODY COULDN'T STAND IT.
BUT NOT ME, UNFORTUNATELY
SHF
WHEN YOU'VE GOT A HEADACHE, YOU TAKE PAINKILLERS. RIGHT AWAY.
JUST WAITING FOR THE PAIN TO GO AWAY ON ITS OWN.
..THAT'S RIDICULOUS
...
GULP
DO YOU HAVE ANY MEMORIES YOU'RE DESPERATE TO FORGET?
...WHY YOU WOULD'VE SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ME.
I THINK NOW I WOULD'VE UNDERSTOOD...
HUH?
WELL, I...
I MEAN... WHY DO YOU ASK?
SKREEE
I CAN FORGET ANYTHING, LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED.
IT'S A GIFT.
...
I JUST THINK TO MYSELF, "YOU CAN'T REMEMBER."
THERE'S A MOMENT WHEN THE MEMORY TAKES THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME BACK, RIGHT? IN THAT MOMENT.
A GIFT?

WHY..?
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'LL ACCOMPLISH BY ABANDONING YOUR FIELDWORK TO LOOK IN ON THIS CASE?
WHY ARE YOU SO CONTRA ?
I GUESS...
THIS CASE HAS THE FIRST VICTIM I'VE EVER KNOWN...
BUT...
SAIGA'S PROBABLY RIGHT. WHATEVER I DO ON THIS CASE WON'T AMOUNT TO MUCH...
...WANTING TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN...
IF I PRETENDED NOT TO SEE ANYTHING
I JUST THINK I'D REGRET IT..
I WANT TO HELP AS MANY PEOPLE AS I CAN, OKAY?
I WANT HELP
EVEN IF I DON'T HELP ANYBODY IN THE END...
I WONDER IF THAT WAS JUST SELFISH ?
...

THUD
SO YOU JUST LIE TO YOURSELF AND RUN AWAY FROM BAD MEMORIES ?
LIKE TO ALL IT OSITIVE IDANCE."
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO COME ALONG
I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU.
IF MR. CAREER COP GETS CAUGHT UP IN SOMETHING PRETENDING TO BE A DETECTIVE, IT COMES DOWN ON MY HEAD.
KA CHUK
SO YOU'RE TELLING ME TO FORGET ABOUT THIS CASE THE SAME WAY?
I'M TELLING YOU NOT TO WASTE YOUR TIME OFF.
. NOSING AROUND IN A CASE THAT'S NOT EVEN YOURS
I'M NOT QUITTING.
...
...
PRETENDING TO BE A DETECTIVE..
LISTEN, BABY AKI.
THERE ARE 150 PEOPLE IN THE DEPARTMENT, AND IF THEY CAN'T PUT TOGETHER A CASE, WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO ALL ON YOUR OWN?
DO YOU GET IT?

BA-
BUMP
BA-
BUMP
BA-
BUMP
BA-
BUMP
BA-
BUMP
~~~
~~~
~~~

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM BE ANYTHING BUT TERRIFIED.
SINCE THE ACCI-DENT...
THE SHOCK OF THE MURDER WAS TOO MUCH.
HE MIGHT NEVER GET BETTER...
TING
...HE'S COMPLETELY LOCKED WITHIN HIS OWN MIND.
RIGHT NOW...
~~~

MA'AM
WHO'RE YOU?
DO YOU KNOW YOUR OWN NAME?
MY NAME...
I DUNNO.
KAI?
HE WAS RELEASED ?
YES.
HE'D FULLY REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS AND HIS HAND WAS MOSTLY HEALED
I SEE...
...

GUESS I'M DONE PRETENDING TO BE A DETECTIVE...
I WAS NAIVE TO THINK I'D EVENTUALLY BE ABLE TO ASK HIM ABOUT THE INCIDENT.
THAT CHANCE IS GONE.
AKI.
SAIGA...
THESE ARE...

THE SISTER'S FAMILY.
HE'S BEING TAKEN IN...
...BY HIS LATE FATHER'S SISTER AND HER FAMILY
THAT WOMAN WAS KOSAKA'S SISTER.
BUT APPARENTLY THERE ARE STILL PROBLEMS.
THE BOY'S SUFFERING FROM AMNESIA
AMNESIA?
I SHOULD'VE BEEN HAPPY HE WAS RELEASED...

BOW
I UNDERSTAND!
AS LONG AS YOU DO THAT, YOU CAN INVESTIGATE TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT
DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOUR FIELDWORK THOUGH!
AND REPORT ANYTHING YOU FIND TO ME.
PROMISE ME YOU WON'T LET YOUR INDEPENDENT RESEARCH INTERFERE WITH THE OFFICIAL CASE!
NOW I CAN DO IT!
KA TUN K
...
TIK
12
9
6

KOSAKA'S CASE FILES!
I COULDN'T GET 'EM ALL, BUT...
HOW DID YOU..?
I PULLED TOGETHER COPIES OF ALL THE FILES THAT HEADQUARTERS WAS DONE VERIFYING
SAIGA.
I MUST BE GOING SENILE
LETTING A ROOKIE CAREER COP GET ME ALL SENTIMENTAL
I CAN GET FAVORS IF I PUSH.
HOW MANY YEARS DO YOU THINK I'VE BEEN WORKING HERE?
I'VE GOT FRIENDS AT HQ
WHATEVER, JUST..
BOW
THANK YOU!

THE ONLY EVIDENCE LEFT BEHIND IS FOOTPRINTS AND THE BULLETS?
...
DUM
EVIDENCE...

THAT'S STRANGE...
SHUFF
SHUFF

...BUT NOT ONLY IS THERE NOT A DESCRIPTION OF IT, IT'S NOT EVEN IN THE CRIME SCENE PHOTOS.
FWP
THAT LIGHTER WAS SO CONSPICUOUS...
WH

REN KOSAKA AND HIS WIFE SAE'S ESTIMATED TIME OF DEATH WAS ROUGHLY THE SAME TIME THE SCENE WAS DISCOVERED
HE WAS SHOT IN THE CHEST AND DIED INSTANTLY
KO... KOSAKA?

IT'S OKAY NOW
THEIR SON, KAI KOSAKA...
WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU

AND...
SAE KOSAKA WAS SHOT SEVERAL TIMES IN THE BACK AND DIED FROM LOSS OF BLOOD.

AND THE BULLETS RECOVERED FROM THE BODIES CONFIRMED MULTIPLE GUNS
THERE'S POSSIBLE EVIDENCE OF MULTIPLE INTRUDERS IN THE HALLWAY...

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
THERE'S NO MENTION OF IT ANYWHERE IN THE CASE FILES.
IT'S NOT EVEN IN THE CRIME SCENE PHOTO-GRAPHS!
NO, THAT'S NOT IT!
WELL, THEN I MUST'VE SCREWED UP SOME-WHERE.
OBVIOUSLY THAT'S NOT THE COMPLETE FILE.
BUT THERE'S NOTHING HERE! I'VE CHECKED AND RECHECKED THE FILE!
THERE'S NO WAY FORENSIC MISSED IT
WE'LL CHECK IT OUT TOGETHER TOMORROW
LOOK, IT'S LATE.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, CALM DOWN.
G'NIGHT.
'SOKAY.
SORRY FOR CALLING SO LATE.
YEAH
...

VRRRRR
BEEP
YEAH?
SORRY FOR CALLING SO LATE
...
WHAT'S WRONG?
I WANTED TO CHECK SOMETHING WITH YOU...
WHAT ABOUT IT?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT LIGHTER WE FOUND AT THE SCENE?
...THE ONE THAT WAS DROPPED ON TOP OF THE BLOOD SPATTERS?
OH...

Documents Room
YOU'RE RIGHT...
KLUNK
...
I KNOW I GAVE MY REPORT
AND THE LIGHTER WAS IN THERE.
SO WHY, THEN...?
I KNOW!
THERE'S NO DESCRIPTION OF THE LIGHTER WE FOUND THAT
...
KLUNK
SHEE
KRAAK

SOMEONE WHO CAN ELIMINATE EVIDENCE ON A CASE THIS BIG...
WE'RE NO MATCH FOR THAT.
NO ONE WILL BELIEVE US.
IT CAN'T BE
SOME-ONE SUP-PRESSED IT?
YEAH.
AND IT WASN'T SOME TWO-BIT BEAT COP, EITHER.
WELL, LET'S REPORT TO HEAD QUARTERS ABOUT IT.
WE KNOW THE LIGHTER WAS THERE!
STOP. ?
I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE SHOWN U THESE FILES.
SHUFF
SAIGA
LET'S JUST STOP.
SHUFF
SHUFF
...
SAIGA
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?!
!
YOU SHOULD STAY OUT OF THIS CASE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
EVIDENCE WE KNOW EXISTED IS DISAPPEAR-ING.
WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT MEANS?
!
WHOEVER IT IS, THEY'RE CAPABLE OF MURDER.
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF WE TRY TO FORCE THE ISSUE.
SORRY, BUT IT'S JUST NOT WORTH IT.
AFTER ALL .. THERE'S NO PROOF.
SAIGA!

I'LL BE BACK IN A SEC.
SAIGA'S PHONE?
VRRRRR
TAENK
SAIGA!
TUP

NO AMOUNT OF JUSTICE IS WORTH YOUR OWN LIFE
THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU'RE BETTER OFF NOT KNOWING
WUBB
BUT...
SAIGA-
SO... SORRY
JUST GOT A LITTLE DIZZY
SHUB
HAVEN'T BEEN SLEEPING WELL LATELY
SHUF
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
KOFF KOFF
WAH...
...

HA HA HA HA HA
AND...
THAT WAS THE FIRST AND LAST I EVER HEARD HIM LAUGH LIKE THAT.
AH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
...THE PERSON I'D TRUSTED SO COMPLETELY.
...AT THA MOMEN I STARTE TO DOUB
...

KA-CHUNK
heh
heh heh heh
heh

HEY
YES?
IT'S ME.
LOOK
WELL .. JUST LIKE YOU THOUGHT
I SEE...
HEY
WHAT'RE YOU GET ME STUFF?
JUST AT WORK
WHAT'RE THE RESULTS?
I KNOW WE'RE FRIENDS AND ALL, BUT IF I GET CAUGHT USING THE COLLEGE LABORATORY FOR NARCOTICS ANALYSIS, I'M GONNA BE IN REAL TROUBLE .
SORRY
I'LL CALL YOU LATER.
YOU JUST HAD SOME A MINUTE AGO.
YOU'RE TAKING TOO MUCH HEADACHE MEDICINE
MY HEAD HURTS.
THOSE PILLS, HE WAS ALWAYS TAKING. THEY WERE...

I DIDN'T KNOW ANY-MORE.
WHAT WAS I DOING? WHAT DID I WANT TO ACCOM-PLISH?
I JUST WANTED TO KNOW THE TRUTH.
THE TRUTH ABOUT HIM...
AND I'LL GO...
...
WHETHER OR NOT HE'D HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE KOSAKA INCIDENT.
VRRRR
DID HE ACCEPT SOME-THING?

BA
DID I LOSE HIM?
KA KLIK
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO STOP?
IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED?
SAIGA...
SHUT!
WILL THEY BE AROUND THIS NEXT CORNER?
THE TRUTH I'M LOOKING FOR... THE JUSTICE I'M SEEKING...
FWIP FWIP
SNF
SNF
/

I'M JUST NOT CUT OUT TO BE A DETECTIVE, BUT IT'S JUST SO CONVENIENT...
I'M SICK OF THIS JOB
SHUFF
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, REMEMBER?
WHY ARE YOU...
SAIGA...
ARE YOU FINISHED
AGENT NARITA?
AND THE REPORT I TURNED IN TO HQ...
DID YOU CHECK TO MAKE SURE NO ONE WOULD CATCH WIND OF THE LIGHTER WHEN THEY READ IT TOO?
SO YOU DIDN'T LISTEN TO ME TELLING YOU TO STOP YOU JUST JUMPED IN
YOU KNEW NOBODY WAS IN THE LIVING ROOM.

I DIDN'T KILL HIM!
ALL THEY ASKED ME TO DO WAS CLEAN UP THE SCENE AFTER-WARDS
JUST TO CHECK THERE WASN'T ANY INCONVENIENT EVIDENCE
BUT BEFORE I COULD GET RID OF IT...
YOU FOUND IT
YOU KNEW.
AND THEN WITH YOUR FRIENDS, YOU KILLED KOSAKA.
twitch
YOU KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING, BUT YOU JUST STOPPED YOUR CAR IN FRONT OF KOSAKA'S HOUSE
YOU LIED. YOU SAID THEY WERE PAIN-KILLERS
YOU TOLD ME TO STAY AWAY FROM THE SCENE
YOU...
THEY'RE NOT THE TYPES TO MAKE MISTAKES LIKE THAT
DROPPING EVIDENCE LIKE THIS...
I WAS PRETTY SUR-PRISED TO SEE IT AT THE SCENE.

I WAS TOLD TO KILL YOU
THE GUYS THAT GIVE ME THE DRUGS THEY SAID NOT TO LEAVE ANY EVIDENCE.
KYIK
INERTIA KEPT ME DOING THE SAME THING EVERY DAY
AND THE DESPAIR PILED UP.
I'M SORRY..
KYIK
BABY AK
BLAM
I WAS DESPERATE.
I DON REMEMBER WHA HAPPENE IN THAT INSTAN VERY WELL

STIM-ILANTS...
PUP
...FOR GETTING WHAT I WANT.
SO THAT'S IT?
THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED SO BAD THAT YOU KEPT DOING THE JOB?
WHETH-ER I KEPT DOING THE JOB BECAUSE I WANTED THEM...
OR WHETHER I NEEDED THEM BECAUSE OF THE JOB.
I'M NOT REALLY SURE.
I'VE BEEN DYING EVERY DAY SINCE I BECAME AN AGENT
GUESS THAT'S THE PRICE OF SEEING GRUESOME CRIME SCENES, WORKING TO SAVE HUMANITY WHEN IT'S CAPABLE OF SUCH ATROCITY
HUMANITY ITSELF MADE ME DESPAIR OF LIFE
BUT WHEN I FINALLY REALIZED IT, I HAD NO MORE COURAGE LEFT.

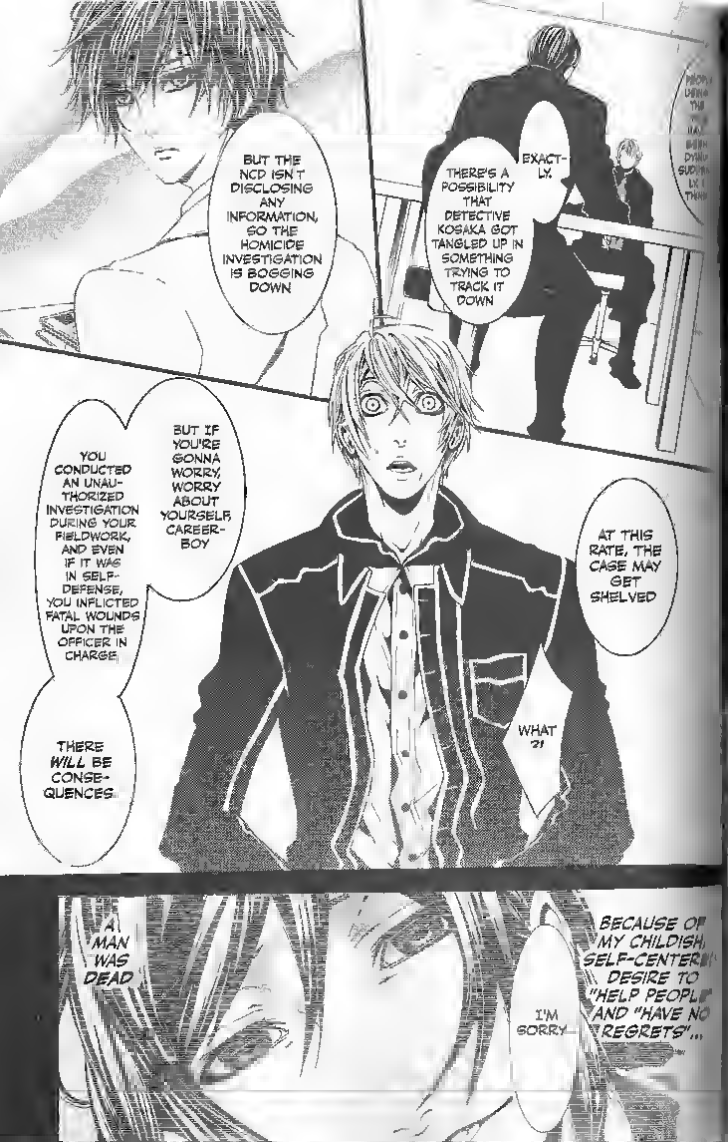
SAIGA!
...
GUESS... CAREER AGENTS REALLY ARE DIFFERENT...
THE BLOOD. IT'S NOT STOPPING!
I'LL CALL AN AMBULANCE!
NO...
IT'S...
IT'S FINALLY OVER.
BABY AK!...
WHAT ARE YOU SAY-
BA

I'M SORRY...
"I'M SORRY."
IN THAT MOMENT, I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD THE TRUE MEANING OF THOSE WORDS.
THAT'S RIGHT
HE'D ALREADY MADE UP HIS MIND...
..TO END IT.

Act.61

JUST LIKE YOU TESTIFIED, WE FOUND DRUGS IN SAIGA'S RESIDENCE.
...
ALSO, THE GUN HE HAD WASN'T POLICE ISSUE.
ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THIS MARK?
NO... I'M NOT.
ABOUT THAT..
shf
WHAT ABOUT THE LIGHTER?
HE SHOULD'VE HAD THE LIGHTER WE FOUND AT THE MURDER SCENE.

IT WAS THE LAST THING YOU TAUGHT ME.
DO YOU HAVE ANY MEMORIES YOU'RE DESPERATE TO FORGET?
THERE'S BEEN PLENTY OF TIME FOR THE MEMORIES OF 16 YEARS AGO TO FADE. I'VE PUT ALL MY EFFORT INTO FORGETTING IT EVER HAPPENED, TO PRESERVE MY OWN SANITY.
HOW TO GET THROUGH THE TERRIBLE THINGS THAT WOULD HAPPEN AFTER THIS...
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU SAID.
BUT NOW..
YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR MEMORY, WITH EFFORT.
Tup
...ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ALL THAT EFFORT MEANINGLESS?


BUT THE NCD ISN'T DISCLOSING ANY INFORMATION, SO THE HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION IS BOGGING DOWN
EXACTLY.
THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT DETECTIVE KOSAKA GOT TANGLED UP IN SOMETHING TRYING TO TRACK IT DOWN
BUT IF YOU'RE GONNA WORRY, WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF, CAREER-BOY
YOU CONDUCTED AN UNAUTHORIZED INVESTIGATION DURING YOUR FIELDWORK, AND EVEN IF IT WAS IN SELF-DEFENSE, YOU INFLICTED FATAL WOUNDS UPON THE OFFICER IN CHARGE.
THERE WILL BE CONSEQUENCES.
AT THIS RATE, THE CASE MAY GET SHELVED
WHAT?!
A MAN WAS DEAD
I'M SORRY...
BECAUSE OF MY CHILDISH, SELF-CENTERED DESIRE TO "HELP PEOPLE" AND "HAVE NO REGRETS"...
SO YOU THINK THEY WERE INVOLVED IN KOSAKA'S MURDER
WE CAN'T CONCLUDE THAT YET.
THERE'S NOTHING TO PROVE THIS LIGHTER W— ACTUALLY AT THE SCENE.
APPARENTLY IT'S THE MARK OF A CERTAIN CHINESE DRUG SMUGGLING SYNDICATE.
SAIGA WAS GETTING HIS DRUGS FROM THEM
THEY'RE A MID SCALE ORGANIZATION BUT WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THEM.
ARE YOU SAYING I'M LYING?
NO.
BUT HEADQUARTERS WANTS THIS INVESTIGATION RUN VERY CAREFULLY.
SWITCH...
IT GOES BY "SWITCH."
I'M SURE YOU'VE AT LEAST HEARD THE NAME.
PROBLEMS?
AND THERE ARE SOME PROBLEMS WITH THIS CASE
THE DRUG SAIGA WAS ON WAS A NEW ONE.

PRETTY SOON I REALIZED I WAS SMOKING THE CIGARETTE I USED TO HATE.
NARCOTICS USERS DEATH UNCERTA
AND THE PRESS WAS CONSTANTLY BASHING THE DEPARTMENT.
T THE TIME, THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE "SWITCH" DEATHS WAS GOING SLOWLY...
BUT THE FACT THAT AN INVESTIGATOR HAD BEEN USING DRUGS AND WAS SHOT BY A ROOKIE DOING UNOFFICIAL FIELDWORK NEVER CAME OUT.
AFTER MY DISCIPLINARY ACTION WAS OVER AND MY SO-CALLED CAREER FIELDWORK WAS FINISHED
I'M SURE THEY DECIDED THEY DIDN'T WANT TO DEAL WITH FURTHER EMBARRASSMENT.
SINCE I WAS "THE ROOKIE BROWN-NOSER WHO'D KILLED HIS INSTRUCTOR," I GOT TREATED AS BAGGAGE EVERYWHERE I WENT, AND I LOST MY FAITH IN BOTH PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS
DETECTIVE NORYA.
SOMETIMES AGENTS WORK ALONE
WITH HIS OWN JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE INDEPENDENTLY?
"IF ALL THE POLICE IN JAPAN WERE MORE LIKE YOU, I THINK THE PEOPLE YOU ALL HELPED WOULD BE HAPPY."
SAIBA ?
IF ALL THE POLICE IN JAPAN WERE MORE LIKE YOU
I THINK THE PEOPLE YOU ALL HELPED WOULD BE HAPPY.
...WAS ALSO THANKS TO YOU.
WHAT COULD I HAVE DONE TO SAVE YOU? ARE THERE OTHER PEOPLE OUT THERE SUFFERING, WITH EYES AS LONELY AS YOURS?
"INERTIA KEPT ME DOING THE SAME THING EVERY DA AND THE DESPAIR PILED UP
THE ONLY REASON I STAYED HERE
JUST LIKE YOU SAID, THE DAYS WERE NOTHING BU HOPELESSNESS AN ISOLATION. THANKS T YOU, I LIV IN HELL
RUNNING AWAY COULD WAIT.
I WOULD STAY HERE AND DO AS MUCH AS I COULD.
BURYING THESE BITTER, NAUSEATING MEMORIES UNDERNEATH MY SENSE OF JUSTICE, I MADE A DECISION.

WELL... THE INDIVIDUAL IN QUESTION IS DECEASED, IT SEEMS...
WHATEVER, WHOEVER IT WAS.
YOU CAN'T SURPRISE ME.
THAT'S GREAT NEWS.
SO WHO WAS IT?
THE SENDER WAS "YOSHIASA IGAKI." IT WAS AN ANAGRAM. YOU COULD REARRANGE IT TO SPELL...
...!
THE PRINTS ON THE WAYBILL, THEY WERE...
SKREE
KACHUK
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANTED TO TELL ME?
MAYBE IT WAS WORTH THROWING MYSELF INTO WORK— THOSE AWFUL MEMORIES STARTED TO BECOME INDISTINCT.
AS I DOVE INTO CASES, I SLOWLY STARTED TO MAKE FRIENDS AGAIN.
STILL...
THE POMEGRANATE SAIGA HAD USED FOR HIS DRUG DEALS.. THE APARTMENT WHERE I'D DONE MY FIRST BUST...
EVEN THE RYUGEN LIGHTER... SOMEONE WAS THROWING PIECES OF MY PAST BACK IN MY FACE.
YOSHITOMO IGAKI. YOSHITOMO IGAKI.
VRRRRR
OH? AND?
GOOD WORK, SIR.
DID WE GET ANY PRINTS OFF THE PACKAGE?
OR IS IT YOSHIASA IGAKI, HUH?
HEH HEH
WELL, AIN'T THAT SNEAKY?

THE FINGER-PRINTS ON THE WAYBILL BELONGED TO TOKI KURA-BAYASHI.
HE DISAPPEARED 16 YEARS AGO. HE IS CONSIDERED DEAD.
GRIN
SOME-ONE'S TRYING TO PICK THE LOCK...
BEEN LOOKIN' FOR YA, KIDDOS.
...ON THE DOOR TO 16 YEARS AGO

Act.62

twitch
oof
SNUG
!!
YEAH, KINDA...
WHEW... THANK GOD I'M BACK IN THE PRESENT.
UH, NARITA?
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I SHOULD SAY...
...OR EVEN IF I SHOULD SAY ANYTHING.
JUST GOT KINDA EMOTIONAL, I GUESS
PAT
HUH?
I'LL SUE YOUR ASS FOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT, BEARDY
OH, SORRY
BEEN LOOKIN' FOR YA, KIDDOS.
HELLO, NARITA!
SO YOU SAY YOU WANNA SEE US
YOU MUST HAVE SOMETHING REALLY FRIGGIN' IMPORTANT TO SHARE, RIGHT?
TMP
TMP
shf
YUP

WHA?
HUH?
WHY'D YOU BECOME NARCS?
WEREN'T YOUR PARENTS AGAINST YOU TAKING A DANGEROUS JOB?
UM...
WELL
DON'T SCREW AROUND! WE NEED INFO ON SEED, AND THAT'S IT!
SO WHAT ABOUT YOU, KIDDO?
WHY THE HELL WOULD YOU ASK SOME-THING LIKE-
HOW SERIOUS HE WAS ABOUT IT, AND HOW HONEST
HOW MANY PEOPLE HE HELPED
MY MOM'S OLDER BROTHER HAD THIS JOB, AND SHE WOULD TELL ME ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME
NO... THEY BOTH SUPPORT-ED ME
NO, KAI'ETO. SINCE HE WAS RAISED BY KOSAKA'S SISTER'S FAMILY...
KOSAKA'S SON, KAI KOSAKA...
TOKI KURA-BAYASHI.
THE MAN WHO SENT THE POMEGRANATE PIECES TO ME
THERE'S NO MISTAKING THAT'S HAL'S FATHER... HE DISAPPEARED 16 YEARS AGO.
CAN I ASK YOU GUYS SOME-THING?
THIS CAN'T BE EXPLAINED AWAY AS COINCI-DENCE
BOTH OF THEIR FATHERS WERE INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT 16 YEARS AGO...
IT'S UNBELIEV-ABLE...
THE MAN WHO'D BEEN TALKING TO KAI THAT DAY WAS TOKI KURA BAYASHI.

I...
...
I SEE...
"JUST KINDA WONDERING"?
OH, SORRY. I WAS JUST KINDA WONDERING.
WHY DID YOU WANT TO KNOW?

...AND HOW MUCH HE LOVED ME.
I WAS REALLY SAD WHEN I HEARD ABOUT IT
KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, THEY SAY.
A TRAGEDY, I'VE HEARD.
YOUR UNCLE .. HE..
BUT HE'S STILL A HERO TO ME.
THANKS TO THE ACCIDENT, I DON'T REMEMBER MY UNCLE
OH...
TO HELP ALL THE PEOPLE HE NEVER GOT A CHANCE TO
SO I DECIDED THAT I WANTED TO HELP PEOPLE, JUST LIKE MY UNCLE DID.

TOKI KURA-BAYASHI... THE RED POME-GRANATE
I CAME HERE...
...TO TELL YOU ONE CRUCIAL THING.
THE LIGHTER... THE MARK OF THE RYUGEN...!
NOT QUITE.
SO YOU CALLED US OUT HERE...
...JUST TO WASTE OUR TIME.
AND SEEDS
SEEDS
THERE'S ONE THING I CAN SAY WITH TOTAL CERTAINTY...
IF EVERYTHING IN THE PAST IS CONNECTED TO THE PRESENT...
RED IS THE COLOR OF WARNING.
YOU TWO BE CAREFUL.

WHO, ME?
SUCH AS?
YOU GOT SOME-THING TO HIDE?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, HUH?
YEAH...
TO TELL THE TRUTH...
YOU BOYS ARE QUICK.
WE HAVEN'T CHECKED IT OUT YET THOUGH.
OH, WE GOT CONTACT INFO FOR A BOSS.
HOW'S SEED GOING?
NYA HA HA
I GOT NOTHIN'!
IT'S ALMOST LIKE WE'RE GOIN' BACKWARDS!
ACTUALLY
THERE ARE JUST TOO MANY UNCONFIRMED ELEMENTS, SO WE CAN'T BE SURE OF ANYTHING.
SORRY, BOYS
YOU HAIRY SON-UVA.

KURA-BAYASHI
GRAB
WHA...
THIS IS SOME KIND OF OMEN.
BEEEP BEEP
-TOKI KURA-BAYASHI...
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME, RIGHT, SAIGA?
THE INCI-DENT 16 YEARS AGO ISN'T OVER YET.
DO I SAY IT?
I'M NOT COM-PLETELY SURE, YET..
SURE
WHAT AM I GONNA DO?
GO AHEAD
WHAT?
RIGHT NOW?
NEXT TIME COME WITH SOME REAL INFORMA-TION.

I'M COUNTING ON YOU GUYS.
...
...HAL?
...

TMD
TMD
TMD
Greater Kanto Public Welfare Ministry Narcotics Control Division

WHAT?
YOU-!
HAL?

THE REASON YOU BECAME A NARC...
WAS I RIGHT?

IF I FIND SOMETHING OUT, I'LL CALL YOU
PAT

!
TRY TO GET ALONG, OKAY?
I JUST TRANSFERRED IN FROM THE YOKOHAMA BRANCH.
MITSUKI TAKEI—
—AT YOUR SERVICE!

Yaaay!
IT'S TAKEI!
HEY! ETO!
LONG TIME NO SEE!
Ha ha ha ha
Tee hee
Poik
YOU TOO, KURA-SAYAGHI!
WILL YOU TWO FOOLS PIPE DOWN?

TRANS-FERRING IN?
tmp
tmp

YUP.
IM-MEDIATELY?
THE SEED CASE IS GAINING MOMEN-TUM.
SO WE'RE BORROW-ING SOME PERSON-NEL
THOUGHT IT'D BE A LITTLE TOUGH FOR JUST THE TWO OF YOU, AFTER ALL.

KA CHAK
EXCUSE ME!
I SEE..

...
DON'T DO ANYTHING *STUPID*.
...
IF YOU THINK WE'RE TAKING OUR EYES OFF YOU...
THE *RYUGEN*.
...
RE-VENGE YOU MEAN.
TAKEI!
TAKEI'S INJURIES...
I'M GONNA GET MY REVENGE ON THOSE GUYS THIS TIME
THANKS TO YOU GUYS, I'M TOTALLY FINE
SO HOW'RE THE INJURIES? ALL BETTER?

KOSAKA...
BLAM
GYU
TING
I HAVE TO KEEP THAT PROMISE.
EVEN IF I PUT EVERYTHING ON THE LINE...

...
GOT SOME-THING TO SAY?
CHIK
KLAK
TCH
IF YOU WEREN'T TOKI KURA-BAYASHI...
I COULD KILL YOU WHENEVER I WANTED
...
"KURA-BAYASHI"
"IT'S TOO BAD..."

RYUGEN?
THE SYNDICATE'S NAME WAS...
THE NUMBER OF STREET-LEVEL DEALERS HAS GONE DOWN.
Huh?
ISN'T THAT...
EVEN WHEN THEIR MOVEMENTS HAVE GOTTEN QUIET AROUND THE YOKOHAMA BRANCH-
WE'VE KEPT TABS ON THEM.
AND THERE'S BEEN STRANGE ACTIVITY RECENTLY.
IF THAT WERE ALL THERE WAS TO IT, SURE
A GOOD THING?
ONE-THE SUPPLY OF DRUGS ITSELF HAS DROPPED.
TWO-
OUR INVESTIGATION UNCOVERED TWO REASONS FOR THE DECREASE.

FOUND IT!
COULDN'T BELIEVE IT MYSELF
WE HAD TO GO THROUGH EVERYTHING FROM THE PACKING MATERIAL TO THE INSIDES OF THE FRUIT WITH A FINE-TOOTHED COMB
AND?
WE DISCOVERED ONE OF THE SEEDS IN THE POMEGRANATE WAS ACTUALLY A DOSE OF SEED
IT WAS IN THIS TINY SPACE, HERE...
...
POMEGRANATE..
SEED..
ANYTHING FROM THE DEALER SURVEILLANCE TEAM?
THEY CAUGHT A SINGLE SEED DEALER RECEIVING THE DRUG.
UPON INVESTIGATING THE SUPPLIER, THEY FOUND IT WAS A FORMER MEMBER OF A SYNDICATE!!

WE COULDN'T BE SURE OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP UNTIL NOW
BUT NOW THERE'S NO MISTAKING THAT THE RYUGEN IS THE SOURCE FOR SEED.
RYUGEN
SEED FORMER FACTION.
SEEMS LIKE THAT COULD BE THE SOURCE OF THE CONFLICT
WHICH IS WHY THE MAIN OFFICE AND THE YOKOHAMA BRANCHES ARE SHARING INFORMATION ON THE CASE
AND THIS TIME, THEY WON'T GET AWAY.
pat
...WHO'S GONNA DIE.
SAWAKI, THE LEFT ARM.
RYUGEN...

INTERNAL CONFLICT.

SO WHAT STARTED IT?
THE RYUGEN G GROWN RAPIDLY, AND THE TWO FACTIONS LED BY THE LEADER AND THE FORMER LEADER...
HAVE BEEN IN OPPOSITION FOR SOME TIME
A DECREASE IN DRUG SUPPLY?
IT'S LIKE I SAID IN REASON ONE
STREET-LEVEL DEALERS HAVE BEEN HURRYING TO EITHER ESCAPE THE CONFLICT OR ALIGN THEMSELVES WITH ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER.
HMM, HM?
THE DRUGS JUST GOT SMALLER
EXACTLY
ALTHOUGH THE ACTUAL AMOUNT DIDN'T DROP
IT'S A MEMBER OF A FORMER FACTION
THE ONE SPREADING SEED AROUND ISN'T, STRICTLY SPEAKING, PART OF THE RYUGEN
YES.
BUT YOU SAID THE SUPPLIER WAS A FORMER MEMBER, RIGHT?

SEED IS PROBABLY...
IT ALL COMES BACK TO SWITCH
A MEMENTO FROM 16 YEARS AGO...
THE PHANTOM DRUG DISTRIBUTED THROUGH POMEGRANATES 16 YEARS AGO...
IF THE MEDI HADN'T GIVEN IT THE NAME "SWITCH"...
"SWITCH" ISN'T THAT...
...THE DRUG THAT KILLED ALL THOSE PEOPLE 16 YEARS AGO BEFORE IT DISAPPEARED?
...MAYBE WE WOULD'VE CALLED IT "SEED" ALL ALONG
WE'VE GOT TO PLUCK THIS SEED BEFORE IT SPROUTS.
BEFORE ANY MORE VICTIMS PILE UP...
DID YOU KNOW THAT THE RIGHT ARM OF THE RYUGEIN'S DRAGON TATTOO ISN'T BLACK?
I'M BETTER OFF DEAD. SWITCH!
!!
switch.
AA
THAT KID COULD DIE BECAUSE OF YOU SOMEDAY
HAL.
YOUR DAD'S ALIVE.

C'MON
SHK
SHK
SHF
WHAT, YOU'RE HERE TOO, NOW?
YUP.
WHERE MY PARTNER GOES, I GO.
SHIBA.

Act.63

tok
tok
Intelligenc
Division
tok
tok
IBU!
tok
tok
YOU'RE LATE!
HUH?!
YOU ONLY HAD TO WAIT ONE DAY!
FWUMP
AND?
THE OWNER OF THE CELL PHONE NUMBER THE ROOKIES DRAGGED UP.
YEAH, YEAH...

YEAH.
THE RYUGEN, I MEAN.
YOU REALLY WANT TO CATCH THEM, DON'T YOU?
THEY'RE NOT GETTING AWAY THIS TIME.
AKI...
IT'S ABOUT ONE OF THE TWO SURVIVING SEED DEALERS WE HAD UNDER SURVEILLANCE.
WHAT?
GOT A SECOND?

SO... THE CELL PHONE CONTRACT ITSELF WAS FALSIFIED?
GUESS YOU CAN'T EXPECT THEM TO USE A NUMBER THAT CAN BE EASILY TRACED
See?
A TOTALLY NORMAL OFFICE WORKER.
CAN'T SEE HIM AS THE TYPE TO BE TRAFFICKING IN SEED
HUH?!
ALONE AGAIN?!
I can't even go to the bathroom!
JUST TO BE SURE, I WANT YOU TO WATCH HIM FOR A WHILE LONGER.
FWIP
IT'S ONE PIECE OF INFORMATION WE CAN PURSUE RIGHT NOW
IF HE'S JUST AN OFFICE WORKER, FINE
WE'RE MOVING FORWARD.
OKAY, IBU...
ONCE WE'VE COLLECTED MATERIALS TO SUBSTANTIATE THAT, WE CAN TAKE A DIFFERENT DIRECTION WITH THE CASE

HEY, NOW
THIS IS IMPORTANT CRIMINAL EVIDENCE, Y'KNOW.
SURE, BUT...
.. THEY'VE GOT SUCH NICE SMILES.
GUESS THAT'S TRUE.
WHEN WE DISMANTLED THE LIGHTER THAT WAS LEFT IN THE APARTMENT..
..WE FOUND A SINGLE PHOTO NEGATIVE!
IT PUT THE FINISHING TOUCH ON THE MEMORY OF 16 YEARS AGO-AS IF WE NEEDED IT
THAT'S RIGHT WHO TOOK THIS PICTURE IN THE FIRST PLACE?
THE ANGLE'S A BIT OFF, AND IT'S LOOKING UP FROM A LOW POSITION.
A WEIRD ANGLE.
GIVES IT A NICE SENSE OF PERSPECTIVE.
IT WAS TAKEN AT KIND OF A WEIRD ANGLE, DON'T YOU THINK?
TOKI KIIRA-BAYASHI, REN KOSAKA AND KAI ETO
THE KEY THAT CONNECTED SWITCH
SWITCH WASN'T FINISHED WITH US

HE WAS ABOUT TO JUMP FROM A PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE NEAR A TRAIN STATION—
—BUT THE SURVEILLANCE TEAM SECURED HIM
GUESS WE SAVED ONE FROM DYING, ANYWAY.
YES
WE'RE DOING A URINE TEST AT HQ NOW
WILL YOU BE BACK SOON?
YEAH...
AKI...
THAT PICTURE..
YEAH...
NICE PICTURE.
WE GOT THE FILM THAT WAS HIDDEN IN THE CONFISCATED LIGHTER DEVELOPED.

I KNOW
WELL, HURRY
DO YOU WANT HIM TO KILL US?
BEEEP BEEEP
JUST WAIT A BIT LONGER.
I'LL CONTACT YOU AGAIN.
BZT
CLOSED
WANT TO VISIT THE OLD HAUNTS?
...
HAS AKAHA BEEN FOUND?
NOT THAT YOU CAN.
I-I'M VERY SORRY, SIR.
WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE HIM YET.

ALMOST LIKE .
...IT WAS TAKEN BY A LITTLE KID.
WELL, HURRY UP AND GET OVER HERE.
STAY COOL.
...
I'M GETTING DEPRESSED HANGING OUT ALL DAY WITH THIS GEEZER.
IT'LL TAKE TIME TO MAKE ALL THE PREPARA-
. TO MOVE YOU SAFELY

WE KNOW THAT HE GOT TO JAPAN.
AKAHA THE RIGHT ARM TOOK THE PRISONER, TOKI KURABAYASHI, OUT OF CHINA.
YES, SIR.
Heh
THAT WILL DO
CONTINUE YOUR REPORT.
THE NEW DRUG HAS ALREADY BEEN DISSEMINATED AMONG THE OLD FACTION IN LARGE QUANTITIES...
AND GIVE IT TO THE OLD MEN
SO HE'S GOING TO TAKE ALL OF OUR SEED...
...WHICH MAKES IT HARD TO RECOVER IT ALL.
WOMAN
LEFT ARM, SIR...
THAT'S A SHAME.
I DIDN'T WANT TO USE VIOLENCE, BUT...
Sigh
DO THEY HATE THEIR LEADER SO MUCH?
SIR...
LORD RYUGEN.
Heh
DON'T CALL ME BY THAT NAME.
SO WE CAN REST EASY THEN?
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
UNDERSTOOD... LEFT ARM.
BUT, SIR...
...THE HEAD OF THE RYUGEN IS NEVER HERE. HE'S LIKE A PHANTOM.
USE "LEFT ARM."
OR ANY OF MY OTHER COUNTLESS NAMES.

HAL...
WE'VE GOT A MEETING ABOUT OUR NEXT MISSION SOON.
FINE.
...
SIGH
ARE YOU... OKAY?
...HUH?
UM...
HAL!
SIGH

THE PROMISE HAS BEEN BROKEN.
THE ONE YOU MADE WITH HIM
AS LONG AS YOU KEPT MAKING NEW DRUGS.
YOUR SON'S LIFE WAS GUARANTEED.
...
NOW HE'S IN REAL TROUBLE.
YOUR SON, I MEAN.
...
HAL...
GYU
HE WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET YOU AND THE SEED BACK.

YES.
HE SAID HE HAD IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE CONFLICT WITHIN THE RYUGEN.
CAN WE TRUST IT?
HE'S HELPED THE BRANCH OFFICE A LOT.
THEY'VE BEEN WORKING WITH HIM IN YOKOHAMA FOR A LONG TIME.
HE'S BEEN EXTREMELY CAREFUL WITH HIS INFORMATION THIS TIME.
FURTHERMORE, HE WANTS TO MEET WITH SOMEONE WHOSE FACE ISN'T KNOWN AROUND YOKOHAMA.
AND HE WANTS TO MEET IN PERSON.
WHICH IS WHERE YOU TWO COME IN

BUT...
BACK OFF, OKAY?
HA!
I MEAN
YOU'VE BEEN KINDA OFF
SINCE YESTERDAY
GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH YOU.
tmp
tmp
tmp
WAS I RIGHT? THE REASON YOU BECAME A NARC..
INFORMATION FROM AN INFORMER?
YOUR DAD'S ALIVE.

VRRR
CATCH THIS MAN.
CATCH HIM...
AND BRING HIM TO ME!

YOU'LL RENDEZ-VOUS WITH HIM AT A SHOP IN YOKO-HAMA'S CHINA-TOWN
WE KNOW THE AREA, SO WE'LL GET YOU CLOSE
YOU'RE JUST LISTENING TO HIS REPORT, BUT IT'S STILL A CRITICAL MISSION
WE'RE COUNT-ING ON YOU
YES, SIR!
...
...
BZZT VRRR
BEEPING CHK

WEL-COME!
...
...
WHUMP
!
snap
flutter
FWP
OH-
FWP
YEAH
HEY, TAKE IT EASY
THEY'RE JUST TALKING WITH THE GUY, RIGHT?
SHIBA ?
...
BE CAREFUL.
ZUP
...
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT

DASH
BLAM
BLAM
KACHK
BLAM
AAAAAA!
AAAAAA!!
AAAAAA!
!
EXCUSE ME, YOU DROPPED THIS!
Follow me
!
shf
HE'S THE INFORM-ER?
ba
!!
HAL KURA-BAYASHI. .

AAGH!
KRRK
I'LL KILL YOU.
I'LL ...
AAGH!
AAAGH!
...AH...
TIIIING
WHAT THE HELL?
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
4AAAAUGH!
GLAMM
-!

SLUMP
URGHH !
koff koff
KACHIK
!
BLAM
KAI!